

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1(amended). A method of operating a digitally controlled model railroad comprising the steps of:

- (a) transmitting a first plurality of commands from a first plurality of programs to an interface;
- (b) ~~transmitting a second command from a second client programs said~~
interface;
- (c) ~~(b)~~ receiving said first plurality of commands and said second command at said interface;
- (d) ~~(c)~~ said interface queuing said first and second commands and deleting checking if two of said one of said first and second commands if they are the same; and
- (e) ~~(d)~~ said interface sending a further third command representative of said one of said first and second commands not deleted to a digital command station for execution on said digitally controlled model railroad.

2(amended). The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing an acknowledgment to one of said ~~first~~ client programs in response to receiving one of said ~~first~~ plurality of commands by said interface that one of said ~~first~~ commands was successfully validated against permissible actions regarding the interaction between a ~~plurality of~~ objects of said model railroad prior to validating another one of said ~~first~~ commands; and
- (b) providing an acknowledgment to another one of said ~~second~~ client programs in response to receiving another one of said ~~second~~ commands by said interface that said another one of said ~~second~~ commands was successfully validated against permissible actions regarding the interaction between a ~~plurality of~~ objects of said model railroad prior to validating said another one of said ~~second~~ commands.

3(amended). The method of claim 1, further comprising the step[s] of selectively sending said ~~third~~ further command to one of a plurality of digital command stations.

4(original). The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of receiving command station responses representative of the state of said digitally controlled model railroad from said digital command station and validating said responses regarding said interaction.

5(amended). The method of claim 1 wherein said ~~first and second~~ commands relate to the speed of locomotives.

6(canceled). The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of updating said successful validation to at least one of said first and second client programs of at least one of said first and second commands with an indication that at least one of said first and second commands was unsuccessfully validated.

7(amended). The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of updating a database of the state of said digitally controlled model railroad based upon said receiving ~~command station~~ responses representative of said state of said digitally controlled model railroad.

8(amended). The method of claim 7 wherein said validation is ~~performed by a an event driven~~ dispatcher.

9(canceled). The method of claim 7 wherein said one of said first and second command, and said third command are the same command.

10(amended). A method of operating a digitally controlled model railroad comprising the steps of:

- (a) transmitting a first command ~~from a first client program~~ to an interface;
- (b) receiving said first command at said interface;
- (c) queuing said first command in a ~~command~~ queue if said first command is different than all other commands in said command queue; and
- (d) said interface selectively sending ~~a second~~ another command representative of said first command to said model railroad ~~one of the plurality of digital command stations~~ based upon information contained within at least one of said first command and ~~second~~ said another command ~~commands~~.

11(canceled). The method of claim 10, further comprising the steps of:

- (a) transmitting a third command from a second client program to said interface through a second communications transport;
- (b) receiving said third command at said interface;
- (c) queuing said third command in a command queue if said third command is different than all other commands in said command queue; and
- (d) said interface selectively sending a fourth command representative of said third command to one of said plurality of digital command stations based upon information contained within at least one of said third and fourth commands.